

29
Hotel du pont de l'Europe, 17 Rue de Turin,
Paris, June 9, 1867.

My dear friend Webb:

It was not till some days ago that I received your letter of April last, (sent I believe to the care of Mr. May,) with its fraternal greeting and hospitable overture, anticipatory of my arrival in England. Yesterday Mr. Chesson sent me yours of the 19th ultimo, addressed to his care at London, and couched in a similar spirit. Thanking you warmly for both, and fully reciprocating the kind expressions contained in them, I can only say, now, that it is my intention to go to London next Saturday, accompanied by ^{my} daughter and son, (Fanny and Frank,) and to remain in England some five or six weeks; then to return to Paris, and go with them to Switzerland till the last week in August, when it will be necessary for me to come back to this city to attend the Anti-Slavery Conference at that time; then to visit the Rhine and various parts of Germany; and then possibly have two or three additional weeks left for England before sailing from Liverpool for Boston, about the middle of October.

It was my calculation when I left home to return on the first of September; but my children so strongly urge me to remain till the 15th of October, in order that I may ^{see} something more of Europe, that I have consented to do so, provided I continue to receive good news from Boston in regard to my wife's health and spirits. Moreover, my children promise to accompany me home, if I will prolong the time of my visit here.

It is now twenty-seven years, almost to a day, since I had the pleasure and good fortune to make your acquaintance, and that of our esteemed friend James Haughton, at the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London, in 1840. How much has grown out of it since that time, bearing upon the Anti-Slavery cause and the abolition of slavery in the United States! It has bound us very closely together in the ties of a pure friendship, through all the changes and vicissitudes of a long protracted and desperate struggle. Happily, we continue to this day, and are permitted to see one of the most marvellous as well as one of the most beneficent displays of Divine Power ever yet witnessed on earth. Our meeting together cannot fail to revive many delightful reminiscences.

At what time I shall visit Dublin, I cannot now determine, nor how many ^{days} I can remain when I come. I shall certainly be glad to break bread with you at your table; but as my daughter and son will be with me, I cannot think, for a moment, of quartering ourselves upon you, even for a day. If we could hire a couple of bed-rooms pro tempore, it would suit us in preference to going to a hotel. I do not think we shall visit any other place in Ireland. I wish to spend as much of our time in Scotland as possible, seeing old friends, the Lake scenery, &c.

It will give me very great pleasure to see at your house, or elsewhere, dear Miss Estlin, for her own sake, and that of her beloved and lamented father. She has proved herself to be a true friend and a most efficient coadjutor ever since we knew each other. Let me here say, that I was equally surprised and grieved at the tone of a letter she sent last Spring to my friend J. M. McKim, concerning George Thompson, and his return to his native land, after so long, so unpremeditated, and so unavoidable an absence from his family. If I know anybody in the world to the heart's core, it is G. T.; and no one is more wrapped up ~~in~~ my affection,

confidence and esteem than himself. Whatever failings he may be thought to possess, as a modest, unselfish, uncomplaining, unobtrusive, yet devoted, eloquent and successful advocate of enslaved and suffering humanity, he commands my gratitude and admiration to the fullest extent. Who, in the final struggle, did so much for the abolition of West India slavery as himself, by his irresistible popular appeals? Who but he first grappled with the nefarious Apprenticeship system, and in the face of even Anti-Slavery opposition (in certain quarters) succeeded in bringing it to an end? Was he not equally successful in his onslaught upon that colossal monopoly, the old East India Company? Who labored more disinterestedly or more efficiently for the repeal of the Corn Laws than himself? And who can measure the results of his toils, and sacrifices, and perils in the United States, to break the fetters of the millions now happily delivered from their house of bondage? I know of no living man who has made his life more resplendent in the service of mankind.

Yours, with the highest esteem,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Richard D. Webb.